to Haj pilgrims and cheat them every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the problems faced by pilgrims are not removed by Government even though they have made their position clear;

(c) if not, the reaction of Government on the newsitem capationed "Haj Karao Karodo Khao" published under "Najariya' in "Rashtriya Sahara' on the 4th April, 2000; and

(d) the line of action ascertained by Government for the welfare of Haj pilgrims in future?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) No Sir. However, some problems relating to accommodation in Makkah and delays at Jeddah Airport at the time of return of pilgrims have come to the attention of the Government. After each Haj, the Government reviews the arrangements in India and in Saudi Arabia and corrective measures are taken for the next Haj. This is an ongoing process.

(d) As Haj-2000 is still in progress, detailed reports from the Government agencies involved in the management of Haj in India and abroad are awaited.

Development of Hilly Areas of Assam

*476. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether some projects for the development of hilly areas of Assam have been undertaken under the scheme of Special Central Financial Assistance;

(b) is so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) Special Central Assistance is allocated to the hill areas of Assam, namely, North Cachhar District and Karbi Anglong District under the Hill Areas Development Programme. The allocation under this programme during the Annual Plan 1999-2000 is Rs. 50.90 crores. The State

Government prepares the Sub-Plan for these areas which includes the flow of funds from State Plan Outlay and Special Central Assistance every year. The outlay for the Sub Plan for 1999-2000 is Rs. 144.76 crores. This sub-plan covers all major sectors of the hill economy in Table-I. (*See* below)

Fruther, for annual Plan 1999-2000 Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 5 crores was allocated for the Autonomous Council of North Cachar District.

As per the recommendations of the Committee to administer the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources, the following projects/schemes in North Cachar Hills and Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council have been supported for Central Assistance during 1999-2000 from the non-lapsable central pool of resources:

(Rs. crore)

	Project Description	Funds Released
1.	Road Schemes for N.C. Hill Autonomous Council, Haflong.	5.00
2.	Diphu Campus of Assam University	3.00

In addition the following schemes have been supported for the State of Assam as a whole in 1999-2000 which are not strictly divisible between hill areas and the other regions of the State:

(Rs. crore)

	Project Description	Funds Released
1.	Minor Irrigation Schemes	5.00
2.	Project to bridge the infrastructure gaps in Forestry sector (including preparation of Working Plans)	10.00
3.	Installation of 1 lakh Shallow Tube Wells	11.00

Table-I

Sectoral Allocations, 1999-2000, For Sub-Plan for Hill Areas of Assam

(Rs. lakhs)

Sl. No.	Major Head	Outlay 1999-2000
A.	Farmarked Sectors	
I.	Agriculture & Allied Activitites	A=697 B=300 C=997
II.	Rural Development	A=160 B=60 C=220
III.	Integrated Jhumia Development Programme (IJDP)	A=40 B=150 C=190
IV.	Irrigation & Flood Control	A=332 B=800 C=1132
V.	Energy	A=225 B=— C-225
VI.	TOTAL EARMARKED	A=1454 B=1310 C=2764
VII.	Basic Minimum Services	A=3930 B=497 C=4427
	TOTAL: EARMARKED & BMS(A)	A=5384 B=1807 C=7191
B.	UNEARMARKED	

I.	Agriculture & Allied Activities	A=508 B=510 C=1018
II.	Irrigation & Flood Control	A=391 B=241 C=632
III.	Energy	A=5 B=— C=5
IV.	Industries & Minerals	A=357 B=126 C=483
V.	Transport	A=1641 B=1155 C=2796
VI.	Science, Technology and Environment	A=5 B= C=5
VII.	General Economic Services	A=137 B=100 C=237
VIII.	Social Services	A=883 B=1176 C=2059
IX.	Public Works & Grants-in-aid to non-official voluntary Organisation in Hill Areas	A=50 B= C=50
	TOTAL B UNEARMARKED	A=3977 B=3308 C=7235
	GRAND TOTAL (A+B)	A=9361 B=5115* C=14476

*includes Rs. 0.25 crore from sources other than HADP
A=State Plan B=Additive Plan C=Total